

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 05487 090909Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 /051 W  
-----001425 100710Z /13-11

R 090727Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9099  
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY LOME  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
WMEMBASSY MONROVIA 6613  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 5487

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, EAID, XA, US  
SUBJ: AALC-OATUU AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRADE UNION SYMPOSIUM  
ON EMPLOYMENT AND TRADE, ABIDJAN, MAY 16-19, 1978

REF: STATE 136281

1. EMBASSY LABOFF WAS NOT AT POST DURING THE SUBJECT SYMPOSIUM.  
BACK-UP OFFICERS WERE EITHER TRAVELING OR ENGAGED IN OTHER  
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DUTIES WHICH PRECLUDED ATTENDANCE AT SYMPOSIUM SESSIONS.  
FORMER DCM GOODWIN COOKE, WHO DEPARTED POST MAY 29,  
HOSTED A RECEPTION FOR SYMPOSIUM PARTICIPANTS AND  
ATTENDED ONE OR MORE SESSIONS. MR. COOKE WILL BE IN  
THE DEPARTMENT FOR CONSULTATIONS AND SHOULD BE ABLE TO  
PROVIDE SOME DETAILS ON THE SYMPOSIUM.

2. EMBASSY WISHES TO ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT THAT MR. ROBERT RICHTER, PROGRAM OFFICER, AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER, NEW YORK, TAPED THE ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS FOR PURPOSES OF PREPARING A COMPREHENSIVE SYMPOSIUM REPORT. THIS REPORT WAS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY, AND IT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT UPON REQUEST.

3. THE REFERENCE SYMPOSIUM WAS SPONSORED BY THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER AND THE OATUU, WITH THE UNION GENERALE DES TRAVAILLEURS DE COTE D'IVOIRE (UCTCI) AS HOST. THE PRINCIPAL THEME WAS THAT OF RECENT CHANGES IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE AND THEIR EFFECTS ON EMPLOYMENT AND WORKERS. THIS INCLUDED DISCUSSION OF NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND OF THE NEED FOR TRADE UNION INCLUSION IN DECISION-MAKING ON ANY RESSTRUCTURING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM. THREE AFL-CIO VICE PRESIDENTS (ALBERT SHANKER, MURRAY FINLEY AND FREDERICK O'NEAL) PRESENTED THE AMERICAN LABOR POINT OF VIEW. AFRICAN PARTICIPANTS WERE AS FOLLOWS: DENNIS AKUMU, SECRETARY GENERAL, OATUU; JOSEPH COFFIE, SECRETARY GENERAL, UCTCI, IVORY COAST; A. M. ISSIFU, SECRETARY GENERAL, GTUC, GHANA; SEYDOU DIALLO, SECRETARY GENERAL, UNTM, MALI; NANGBOG BARNABO, SECRETARY GENERAL, CNNT, TOGO; NEWSTEAD ZIMBA, SECRETARY GENERAL, ZAMBIA CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS; SIWA DIO BANZA, UNTZ, ZAIRE; HON. JUMA BOY, SECRETARY GENERAL, KENYA CENTRAL ORGANIZATION OF TRADE UNIONS; UNCLASSIFIED

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J. B. KABIA, SECRETARY GENERAL, SIERRA LEONE LABOR CONGRESS; MARTIN NZOUGHE, PRESIDENT, FEDERAL SYNDICALE GABONAISE.

4. THE SYMPOSIUM WAS A FIRST EFFORT AT EXCHANGING VIEWS AMONG TRADE UNIONISTS ON INTERNATIONAL COMMERCE AND EMPLOYMENT. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE AFL-CIO EMPHASIZED ITS DESIRE TO PROTECT AMERICAN JOBS FROM SEVERE IMPORT COMPETITION AND THAT THE AFRICANS, CITING THEIR INTEREST IN CREATING INDUSTRIAL EXPORT SECTORS AND INDUSTRIAL JOBS, WERE SOMEWHAT IN DISAGREEMENT. PRIOR TO COMMENTING FURTHER ON THE SYMPOSIUM, EMBASSY PREFERS TO AWAIT RECEIPT OF MR. RICHTER'S FULL REPORT. STEARNS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780243-0143  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AALC-OATUU AFRICAN-AMERICAN TRADE UNION SYMPOSIUM ON EMPLOYMENT AND TRADE, ABIDJAN, MAY 16-19, 1978  
**TAGS:** ELAB, EAID, XA, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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